ONTARIO HERITAGE TRUST
An agency of the Government of Ontario

Heritage Matters

A publication of the Ontario Heritage Trust Volume 6 Issue 3 September 2008

Adapt/Reuse

In this issue – Understanding adaptive reuse . . . Alma College remembered . . . The heritage of faith: Ontario's places of worship

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A message from The Honourable Lincoln M. Alexander, Chairman

As I travel the province and meet the people of Ontario, I am constantly amazed at the new and exciting ways our heritage buildings have been adapted. A former train station may now be a restaurant, while a previous town hall may have been transformed into a tourist information centre.

Adaptive reuse is important not just because it means that heritage buildings are saved – although that reason alone is a significant incentive. But adaptive reuse remains one of our most crucial examples of sustainability. Adapting a heritage site to a new purpose not only gives the building new life but also sustains the architecture and, more importantly, our culture and the environment.

Our storied past is largely shaped by our heritage structures. The pride that is felt by people throughout the province is obvious. It's clear that we want to show off these buildings both for what they once were and what they have become. And so we should. These heritage treasures bespeak our rich past.

Conservation is a more important topic now than ever – especially after losing buildings as significant as Alma College in St. Thomas. We must all strive harder to find creative and innovative solutions and uses for heritage buildings in Ontario.

As you read through the articles in this issue, keep in mind the heritage buildings in your own community and ask yourself how you can conserve or transform them. I know that you will enjoy this issue of *Heritage Matters*. Together, we can find ways to keep our heritage alive, while adapting our past for the future.

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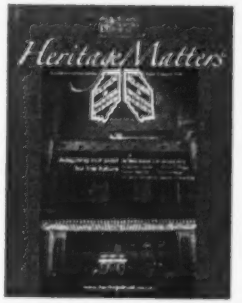
Cover – Restored in 1987–89, Toronto's Elgin and Winter Garden Theatre Centre – one of the properties held by the Ontario Heritage Trust for the province – was the largest restoration project of its kind in Canada. This former vaudeville house and movie theatre was transformed into a modern commercial theatre, complete with rehearsal spaces and conference and rental facilities. The last of its kind in the world, this magnificent double-decker theatre is an example of how the successful restoration of a heritage building can give it new life well into the 21st century. (Photo: Carlos Osorio/*Toronto Star*)

Feature story

The heritage of faith: Ontario's places of worship, Page 7



Heritage Matters

Heritage Matters is published in English and French and has a combined circulation of 10,500. Digital copies are now available on our website at www.heritagetrust.on.ca

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Produced by the Ontario Heritage Trust
on behalf of the Ontario Ministry of Culture.

Editor: Gordon Pape
Graphic Designer: Manuel Oliveira

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ISSN: 1488-2531 (Print)
ISBN: 0-921-8905-9 (Print)
ISSN: 1911-8805 (HTML/Online)
ISBN: [illegible] (HTML/Online)

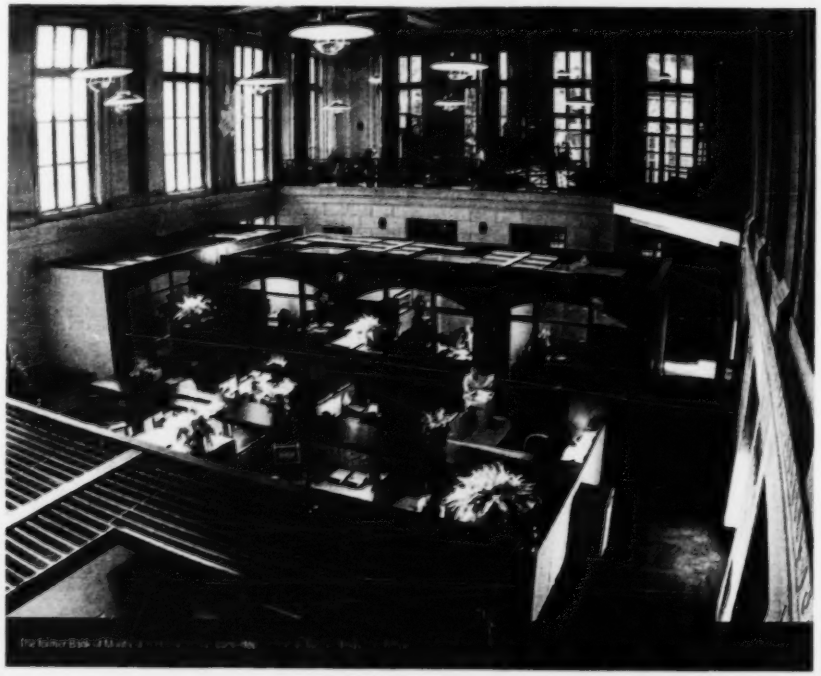
04/08

Ontario

Understanding adaptive reuse

By Sean Fraser

Parks Canada defines conservation as "all actions or processes that are aimed at safeguarding the character-defining elements of a cultural resource so as to retain its heritage value and extend its physical life."



In our efforts to conserve heritage properties, finding a use can be our greatest challenge and our greatest opportunity. An unused, vacant heritage building is a property at risk. Only through physical intervention aimed at preservation – or reanimation through new use – can a vacant heritage property be fully conserved. Not every use, however, is right for every building, the most important step is finding the right match.

Adaptive reuse is a logical, obvious and practical means of conserving these properties. But what do we really mean by this term? What principles, criteria and questions must we consider in evaluating a proposed adaptive reuse project?

Adaptive reuse is conservation neutral. Some examples use a rehabilitation approach, sensitive to the heritage value of the property by utilizing good conservation principles. Other adaptive reuse projects are more destructive with little regard for the heritage value of a building or property. Attributes that could be retained and put to new use are often removed, replaced or otherwise destroyed. Such insensitive projects may involve renovation (i.e., where old is replaced with new), partial retention (i.e., where only a portion of a heritage property is kept, such as the façade) and reconstruction, whereby a considerable degree of demolition and unnecessary loss of heritage attributes occur. Ultimately, the conservation success of an adaptive reuse project can be gauged by the degree to which the heritage attributes are preserved.

Architectural adaptation is the act of making changes to a building in order to facilitate a use that was never planned or contemplated in the original design. Traditionally, we assume that the easiest fit for a building in terms of potential reuse is the use for which a building was originally intended. But is this really the case?

Let us consider the adaptation of an early 20th-century bank to modern needs. Modern banking is quite different than its historical counterpart. Adapting an old bank may require considerable adaptations, including: changes in the circulation plan; different furniture; conduit and ductwork for information technology and ventilation; additional space for computer equipment and security systems; more space for automated tellers and fewer traditional wickets. Most significantly, the imposing and lavish bank manager's office and traditional steel walk-in vault – the very essence of a historical bank – would not be easy fits for modern use. Adapting an old bank to modern banking might be more physically invasive than simply converting it to a jewelry store or art gallery instead. For instance, the former Bank of Montreal in Hamilton (built in 1928) has been successfully converted to the regional office of the Gowlings law firm in a manner that may be more sensitive than if a modern bank had tried to reuse the facility.

Strictly speaking, reuse is the recycling of an existing building for a new use – for example, the use of an old church as a modern theatre. Changes, or adaptations, may also occur – both additions and removals – to make it useable, viable and safe as a theatre. In the case of Toronto's Bathurst Street Theatre, now the home of the Randolph Academy for the Performing Arts, this former Methodist Church (built in 1888) has operated as a performing arts facility since 1985. The sightlines, acoustics and seating capacity of the space made the conversion to a theatre a logical progression that required minimal changes, while preserving the majority of the heritage attributes both inside and out.

The principles of adaptive reuse for heritage properties are identical to the principles of conservation (see Parks Canada's *Standards and Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places in Canada*, the Ontario Ministry of Culture's *Eight Guiding Principles in the Conservation of Built Heritage Properties*, etc.). But there are a number of features common to heritage-sensitive adaptive reuse projects, including:

- Thoughtful research, planning and design
- Preservation, utilization and celebration of the heritage attributes
- Sufficient space to accommodate the new use
- Realistic performance expectations for the existing building
- More repair and rehabilitation than new construction
- Grouping, limiting and externalizing of the modern services
- Economic viability

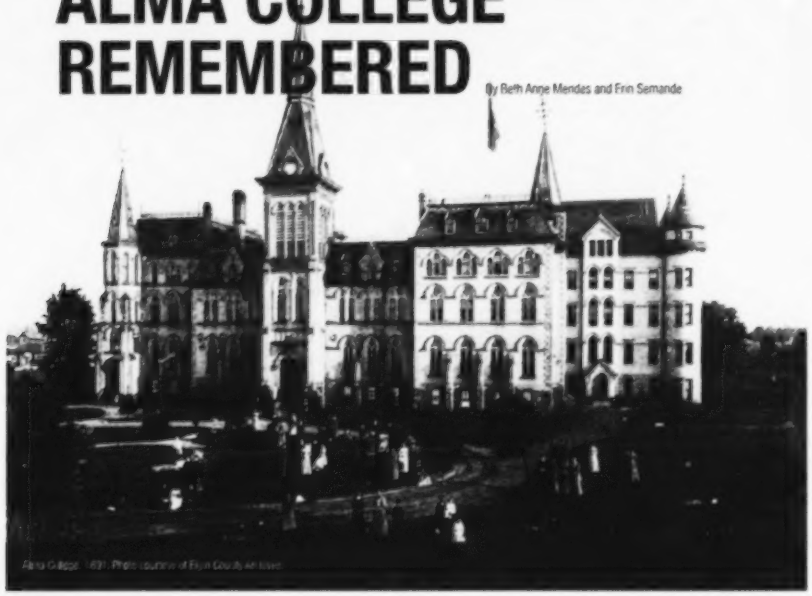
Adaptive reuse is a key component in the conservation equation, but it is important to remember that not every use is a good fit for every heritage building. Selecting the right use is perhaps the most influential factor in the successful conservation of any heritage property.

Sean Fraser is the Manager of Conservation Services, Ontario Heritage Trust.

Look for a feature on adaptive reuse in future issues of *Heritage Matters*!

ALMA COLLEGE REMEMBERED

By Beth Anne Mendes and Erin Semande



Alma College, 1891. Photo courtesy of Elgin County Archives

By mid-afternoon on Wednesday, May 28, 2008, Alma College in St. Thomas was reduced to a smouldering ruin.

The loss of this significant site to fire represents an enormous heritage loss for the province. Much of what stood of this once-impressive 19th-century school building after the fire – the skeletal brick remains of its exterior walls and towers – was later pulled down for public safety reasons. While the chapel survives and has potential for restoration and reuse, the grandeur that once was Alma College is now only a memory recorded in photographs and the printed page.

Alma College was built in 1878, largely thanks to the efforts of Rev. Albert Carman, a Methodist Episcopal Church bishop. Carman was instrumental in laying the groundwork to establish the institution. The College officially opened in 1882. It operated until 1969 as one of Canada's leading finishing schools for young women. Girls and young women were being educated in growing numbers during the second half of the 19th century with the opening of provincial public schools and private ladies' colleges. Alma College offered classes in the visual and performing arts.

The High Victorian Gothic building was designed by Hamilton architect James Balfour (also known for his work at Hamilton City Hall and the Detroit Institute of Arts), and built by Henry Lindop of St. Thomas. The 10-acre site at 96 Moore Street in St. Thomas was selected for its rail accessibility as well as its then-acceptable distance from the distractions or "vices" of larger urban centres.

Balfour designed Alma College in the High Victorian Gothic style with a grand central tower, asymmetrical wings, pointed arch window and door openings and detailed window transoms. The school also had French Second Empire design elements, including its mansard roof. During the 1880s, a five-storey addition in the Scots Baronial style added rounded corner turrets and a hipped roof to the southwest corner of the building. The building boasted a high degree of craftsmanship in the use of local buff bricks, grey-green sandstone, decorative polychrome slate on the turrets and mansard roof, and timber trim and frame.

Prior to the recent fire, the Alma College site – vacant for the past 12 years – included the grand main school building that has been lost, and a small chapel, music building and outdoor amphitheatre, three of which remain.

Alma College officially closed in 1984. Many of its alumni have become innovators and pioneers in the fields of law, music, politics, government and education. The College lives on through a large and active alumni; the Alma College International Alumnae Association has chapters throughout the world. Undoubtedly, their memories will help keep the history of this wonderful building and important institution alive, as scholars and supporters of heritage compile the written, personal and visual testament to one of the province's great landmarks – Alma College.

Beth Anne Mendes is the Plaque Program Coordinator with the Ontario Heritage Trust. Erin Semande is a Places of Worship Inventory Researcher with the Trust.

KINGSTON'S HERITAGE: TIME AND AGAIN

By Marcus R. Létourneau, with contributions by M. Fluhrer, L. Lamont and T. Greenwood

The City of Kingston sits at a strategic location, halfway between Montreal and Toronto, where Lake Ontario meets the western end of the St. Lawrence. It has long been a First Nations meeting place and is one of the earliest sites of European settlement in North America. Kingston's past is certainly a storied one. It was the site of several battles, first capital of the United Canadas, home to Sir John A. Macdonald and boasts one of North America's oldest markets.

The city is known for its heritage initiatives, including the creation of its municipal heritage committee in 1958, the passing of the Kingston Act in 1970 and for being the location of the 1975 proclamation of the Ontario Heritage Act. Over the past three years, Kingston's cultural heritage program has been significantly reorganized. There are now four components to the program: Built/Designed Heritage (including cultural landscapes), Archaeology, First Nations and Public Education.

For its size, the city has a tremendous number of heritage resources. It currently has 690 properties on its *Register of Heritage Properties*, with nearly 250 additional properties with some form of council endorsement and more than

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This building at 51 Montreal Avenue in Kingston was recently designated by the city

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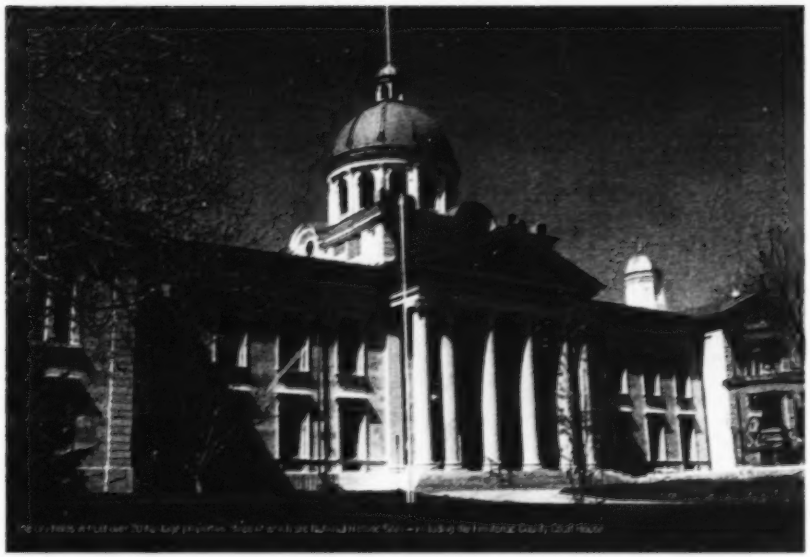


The City Hall is one of over 70 city-owned properties identified as possibly having cultural heritage value. Since 2005, the city has completed 12 new Part IV designations, six bylaw updates and over 10 requests for an update or new designation – and only 30 per cent of the city's inventory has been evaluated. The city is also one of the few municipalities in Ontario with a UNESCO World Heritage designation that includes the Rideau Canal and Kingston Fortifications (including Fort Henry). In addition, the city has over 80 identified marine and terrestrial archaeological sites.

Kingston has also developed new and innovative heritage policies. For example, its adjacent properties policy, based on the Provincial Policy Statement (2005), was developed in conjunction with Parks Canada and the Ontario Ministry of Culture. Other completed initiatives include the creation of a Heritage Incentives Program, Interim Archaeological Criteria and policies, a new Heritage Properties Evaluation template, a new plaque program and the Belle Island First Nations Agreement. Ongoing projects include the Archaeology Master Plan (to be implemented this fall), a heritage conservation district study for the Old Sydenham Heritage Area (representing approximately 350 properties), an Aboriginal Protocol, participation in the creation of the city's new Official Plan and the Rideau Canal Landscape Project (in conjunction with Queen's University and Parks Canada).

The city holds in trust over 20 heritage properties, including three national historic sites. To help protect these resources, it has prepared a Commemorative Integrity Statement, with the assistance of Parks Canada. It is also developing a designation bylaw for the interior of the city hall and has allocated $30,000 for the creation of the Kingston City Hall Management Plan. In 2004, the city prepared a *Building Conservation Master Plan* for many of its properties, and is actively restoring many of its sites. In response to new archaeological requirements, the city has also undertaken archaeological assessments of many of its major parks.

Staff are also involved in initiatives to make Kingston known for heritage education. The city has also partnered with several universities, including Queen's and Waterloo. A number of heritage workshops have been held in the last few years, including a Marine Archaeological Workshop, a Conservation Review Board training workshop and an Edifice *Old Home* Magazine workshop. Additionally, the city has created an intern program for heritage planning; nearly 10 volunteer interns have participated since its creation. The city has also created a new series of heritage pamphlets, has begun updating its website to showcase Kingston's heritage program and has developed a Communication and Education working group.

Kingston's heritage planning program is being transformed into a broader cultural resource management program. It is an integrative management approach existing within an overall policy structure that requires four elements to be in place in all decision-making that affects cultural heritage resources: inventory, evaluation, monitoring and review.

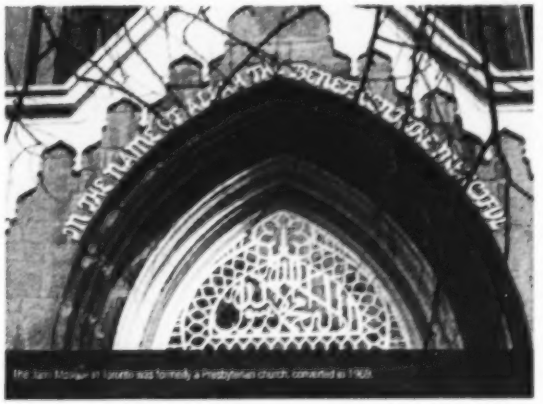
The new cultural heritage program in Kingston has been designed and developed as a holistic program, spanning broadly to issues of sense of place, cultural tourism, economic development, sustainability, community development and community engagement. Cultural heritage has become an important part of the city's overall economic development. Largely due to these efforts, the City of Kingston won the 2007 Cultural Heritage Category for Communities in Bloom, time and again, heritage has changed the face of Kingston, as it continues to contribute to Ontario's unique heritage fabric.

For more information about Kingston's cultural heritage program, visit *www.cityofkingston.ca/heritage*.

Marnie R. Lefebvre is a Bid Heritage Planner for the City of Kingston.

The heritage of faith – Ontario's places of worship

By Sean Fraser



The Sun Mosque in Toronto was formerly a Presbyterian church, converted in 1968.

In 2006, the Ontario Heritage Trust began compiling an inventory of significant pre-1967 purpose-built places of worship located throughout the province. These remarkable cultural treasures reflect the history of religious diversity in Ontario and often serve as architectural landmarks that create a unique sense of place in their communities.

The Places of Worship Inventory project spans more than 200 years of Ontario's history. The inventory includes late 18th-century structures, such as Hay Bay Church, and buildings of the recent past, including the London Muslim Mosque erected in 1964. Over 60 different faiths and denominations have been identified and their unique Ontario features, architectural traditions and roles in the community investigated. Most significantly, to date over 6,500 sites have been identified. The vast majority are not yet listed on local heritage inventories or recognized in any way. In addition to identifying these heritage sites, the project includes research on the province's religious history, including significant people, events and historical themes.

In many communities, the most historic and significant architectural landmarks are their places of worship (either current or former). These landmarks often occupy prime locations due to the influence and age of the congregation or the importance of organized religion in the development of community. Sometimes, a place of worship is a major part of the local landscape, as is the case in the picturesque community of River Canard (Amherstburg) in Essex County. Here, the river, the towering bridge and St. Joseph Roman Catholic Church create an image that is not only remarkably pleasing to the eye and a point of local pride, but also important to a landscape that contributes to the community's identity.

As immigration patterns change and neighbourhoods evolve, we sometimes see historic places of worship remain as a testimony to a previous community. At one time, Kensington Market in Toronto was a predominately Jewish neighbourhood; now, it is largely Asian. The presence of the Anshe Minsk Synagogue, built in 1930, is a reminder of the area's changing social fabric.

Sometimes, places of worship are virtually abandoned as the communities supporting them disappear or attendance dramatically decreases. It is also not uncommon for a congregation to either outgrow its place of worship or relocate altogether. This is the case with Old St. John's Anglican Church, a Trust conservation easement property in Niagara Falls. In 1957, the congregation built a new building and Old St. John's was deconsecrated (1962) and eventually converted into a columbarium. With shifting demographics, new religious needs and population redistributions, many congregations of the historic places of worship struggle to keep their facilities in use. It is reassuring to see that significant places of worship can be preserved and converted to new, appropriate and viable uses.

Ultimately, improving our understanding of the nature, scope and significance of the province's religious heritage is the first step in preserving and appreciating these special places. It is important to remember this: we can't preserve it if we don't know it exists.

Sean Fraser is the Manager of Conservation Services with the Ontario Heritage Trust.

Adaptive reuse of places of worship. Places of worship play a key role in Ontario's communities – in addition to their religious contributions, they act as community hubs and provide space for many local social, political, artistic, places of worship, however, are increasingly at risk. Other buildings are falling into disrepair and, due to shifting demographics, many congregations are shrinking in size. In the face of these challenges, a growing number of congregations are modifying their buildings to meet these changing needs, or are considering selling their properties to be adaptively reused by new owners.

Continued use is one of the best ways to ensure the conservation and maintenance of heritage buildings, and adaptive reuse is one such way to achieve this. Places of worship have the potential to be adapted to a variety of uses. Some of the most sensitive conversions are from one faith group to another, as what they used to be a place of worship is often similar to new places of worship as well often compatible as performance spaces and community centres. In other areas, their prominent locations and unique architecture make many places of worship good candidates for residential, commercial or institutional uses.

The following are examples of adaptively reused places of worship. While some of these buildings have been adapted more recently, others – like Niagara-on-the-Lake's Queen Street Community Centre – demonstrate that adaptive reuse is not a new concept.

The heritage of faith

Places of Worship Inventory. In recent years, the large number of surplus and increasingly underutilized religious buildings in Ontario has been of serious concern. The Trust's Places of Worship Inventory will become a useful tool for various faith groups, municipalities, heritage organizations and the province for capital planning, conducting heritage evaluations, assembling preservation strategies and undertaking adaptive reuse efforts on religious sites.

This inventory will soon be available to the public through a website dedicated to places of worship in Ontario. In addition to the inventory, the website will include information on how significant heritage places of worship may be conserved and adapted to sympathetic uses. It will also provide resumes of various religious denominations in Ontario, as well as the architecture of places of worship, and a comprehensive directory of resources.

It is hoped that this inventory will serve as a resource for researchers, academics, heritage advocates and heritage professionals, and will assist with the conservation of Ontario's religious heritage properties by encouraging the adaptive reuse of these important sacred places. In the long term, the inventory will promote a better understanding of Ontario's religious heritage, as well as its multi-cultural legacy and diverse history.

Originally a Congregationalist church built in 1844-45, the large irregular plan of this building reflects an ideal location on the Underground Railway in Kingsville.

In Niagara-on-the-Lake, Future Antiques was once St. John's Anglican Church.

The Chapel Restaurant in Richfield was built in the 1850s as the Richfield Methodist Episcopal Church.

This private residence in Prince Edward County was once a one-room Congregational church.

The heritage of faith

Celebrating Ontario's trails

By Liane Nowosielski

Claireville Conservation Area, Brampton – June 7, 2008

Building on the success of last year's pilot program, the Ontario Heritage Trust launched Trails Open Ontario 2008 on June 7 – International Trails Day – with an event at Claireville Conservation Area in Brampton.

A series of diverse and well-attended events followed throughout the summer months on some of the province's most impressive and inspiring trail systems. These province-wide community events continue through early autumn, largely coinciding with the weekends around Ontario Hiking Week (September 27-28 and October 4-5).

Trails Open Ontario celebrates the more than 64,000 km (39,800 miles) of extraordinary trail systems that exist across the province by providing an opportunity for the public to experience them through free local events. Each event is unique – some focus on educational pursuits, such as instructional workshops and exhibitor displays, while others include more formal activities, such as trail dedication and tree planting ceremonies. Most events include a guided hike component that provides an up-close and personal introduction to the featured trail. Whatever your interest, there's a Trails Open event that's just right for you!

The Trails Open initiative has grown remarkably in the short time since its inception. The 2008 program features 24 events held in partnership with 17 trail associations.

With greater awareness and education on trail use, it becomes increasingly clear that the province's natural spaces and trail systems are critical to our well-being. They contribute to better health through increased activity, a stronger economy through increased tourism, and stronger communities through the partnerships they forge between volunteers and private property owners. Trails also contribute to the conservation and appreciation of Ontario's natural and cultural heritage landscapes.

This year's events run until the end of October. To find the location and date of free events in your area, visit www.heritagetrust.on.ca and click on "Trails Open Ontario" under the Spotlight on heritage. You can also order your own copy of the Doors Open Ontario 2008 Guide – which includes Trails Open Ontario information – by calling 1-800-ONTARIO or e-mailing marketing@heritagetrust.on.ca.

The Trust would like to thank the Government of Ontario for its support of this program. Thanks, as well, to all the communities, trail organizations and volunteers who have committed to hosting Trails Open Ontario events.

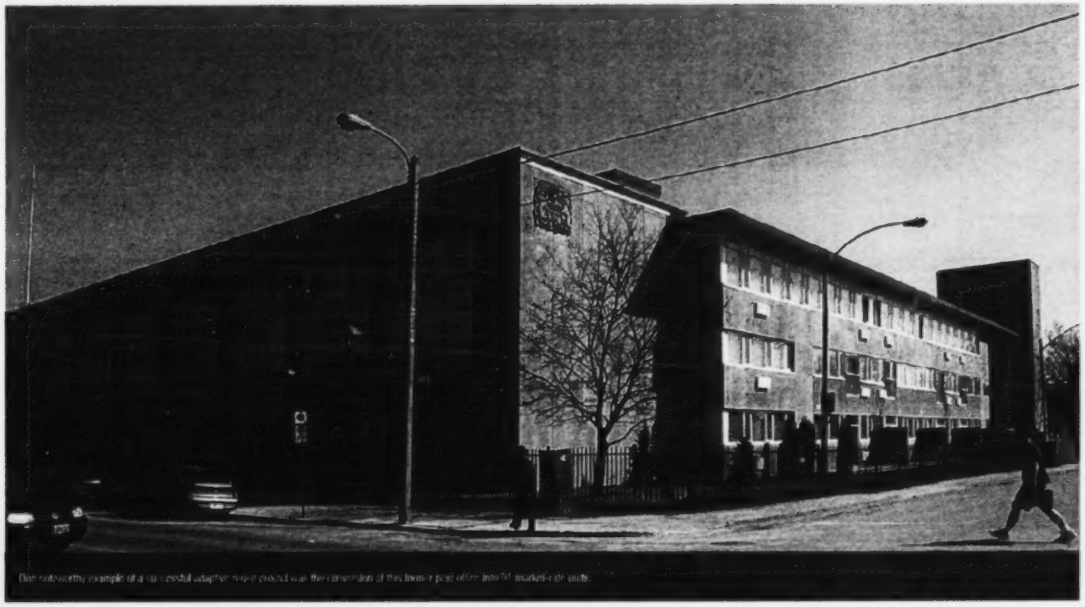
Ontario's trails are ready to be explored. Bring your family and enjoy a day of activities on some of the province's most picturesque trails.

Liane Nowosielski is an Assistant Marketing and Communications Coordinator with the Ontario Heritage Trust.

Trails Open Ontario is a program of the Ontario Heritage Trust, delivered with support from the Government of Ontario. The program's media sponsor is *The Globe and Mail*.

SECOND CHANCES FOR PETERBOROUGH'S PRICELESS HERITAGE

By Erik R. Hanson



One noteworthy example of a successful adaptive reuse project was the conversion of this former post office into 91 market-rate units.

Because the post office was outfitted with heavy sorting machinery, the building's concrete floors had to be heavily reinforced. This feature ultimately enabled the basement to be converted into a parking garage, an appealing feature for this project.

GUEST COLUMNIST

One of the greatest challenges to creating a healthy downtown is getting people to live there. While Peterborough's historic centre is full of beautiful heritage buildings, most have empty upper floors. Until recently, few owners were willing to risk the cost of renovations when the rental market downtown seemed dubious at best.

This challenge, however, is beginning to change. Several under-utilized buildings have been bought and some of the spaces converted to rental accommodations. One noteworthy example is a former post office that was converted into 91 market-rate units. If there was any doubt that a market existed for high-end downtown rental units, it was quickly dispelled when the building was fully pre-leased before completion.

From a heritage perspective, there are a few points of interest about this post office. It was the first post-war building in Peterborough designated under the Ontario Heritage Act. Built to replace the late 19th-century Romanesque post office around the corner, it was meant to have been constructed in 1914 but was delayed because of war. Construction took three years to complete. When it finally opened in 1955, it was heralded as the "most modern post office in Canada." The building, designed by local firm Craig and Strong, was occupied by the federal government until the late 1990s. It then stood vacant for several years. In 2002, AON Inc. bought it and began planning the conversion to residential units. Construction began in 2004 but was promptly halted in July by a flash flood that left most of downtown Peterborough under water. Work began again in the fall; the building was ready for occupancy a year later.

Fortunately, many of the building's original features remain. Some have also been uniquely adapted to serve a valuable, new purpose. For instance, because the post office was outfitted with heavy sorting machinery, the building's concrete floors had to be heavily reinforced. This feature ultimately enabled the basement to be converted into a parking garage, an appealing feature for this project.

City staff worked closely with the project architects – Lett Architects – to ensure that the defining features of the building were protected. Although the original steel window frames could not be saved, the replacements – while not exact replicas – maintain the horizontal emphasis. In addition, the new design called for the complete demolition of the interior to insert a third floor within the envelope of the original two-storey building. The front façade of the building also remains uncharged. The owners even replicated the original lettering over the doors when naming the new apartment building Rivulet Courtyard.

As a designated property, the post office was eligible for inclusion in the city's Heritage Property Tax Relief Program – a 20 per cent annual reduction in property taxes in exchange for a registered agreement to maintain the heritage attributes of the building to recognized conservation standards. The post office project has become an interesting case study for the viability of this program.

Since the building had only been designated as part of the site plan approval process, it was vulnerable to demolition from any plan that sought instead to intensify it. The site is also zoned for the city's highest level of density, so the post office could have been replaced by a multi-storey building. The heritage value of a post-war modernist building would have been a hard sell in a battle against a larger development generating more taxes. The owners, however, came to the conclusion that the retention and rehabilitation of the building was cost-effective because of the rebate. This conclusion would suggest that the program is sufficiently financially robust to make a difference in the conservation of heritage resources.

While under government ownership, the building was not taxed municipally. Now, it generates nearly $92,000 – less the heritage property tax relief. It seems that there is a strong argument for the program in these numbers. Some would claim, however, that a complete redevelopment of the site would have generated far more taxes without any rebate reduction. This suggestion, of course, fails to recognize the value of the embedded energy in the existing structure, the cost of producing new materials and products, the fossil fuels to ship those goods and materials, the cost and energy in demolition and the impact on landfill capacity. Nor does it reflect the value added to the downtown from a building of character or the cachet of a heritage property.

Environmental sustainability and heritage marketing are becoming strong economic drivers in their own right. But, most importantly, every new building that replaces an old one deprives us of having our heritage around us, connecting us to our past and helping us map our future. And in the end, isn't that priceless?

Erik R. Hanson is the Heritage Resources Coordinator with the City of Peterborough.

THE CHARACTER OF ADAPTIVE REUSE

By Romas Bubelis

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"The building which, of no great artistic merit, is either of great antiquity or a composition of fragmentary beauties welded together in the course of time."
– Sir John Summerson

In his 1947 essay titled "The Past in the Future," architectural historian John Summerson (1904-92) offered this description of an old building. He was speaking of ancient European monuments – deserving protection because of their age value alone. But, he also included modest buildings, transformed over their lifetime by a process of addition, subtraction, alteration and overlay. In his last passage, linking "fragmentary beauty" and "the course of time," Summerson hinted at the unique character of old buildings that have found new uses.

In today's society, old buildings are rarely protected on account of their age or character. Rather, architectural preservation is increasingly linked to adaptive reuse. It relies on arguments based on economics or linked to the contribution of reused buildings to environmental sustainability. Eager to save old buildings by any means, the conservation community has adopted economic viability and utility as pivotal values, particularly because those who tend to own such buildings often must favour such arguments. But it's the esthetic character of these places that is their core heritage value.

With new construction, the design goal is clarity of planned use accompanied by controlled articulation of the architectural experience. In adaptive reuse, it is the reverse. Complexity, contradiction, nuance and overlay of meaning are the defining architectural qualities of adaptive reuse. From an esthetic perspective, the success of an adaptive reuse project is often dependent on how individual building features are retained and recombined to perform new functions, while retaining an evocative memory of their past life.

A fine example of this enduring architecture is the block at Adelaide Street East and George Street in Toronto. This property – comprised of five intertwined buildings, two of which are National Historic Sites – is protected by a Trust conservation easement. At one corner of the block, there is a neoclassical Bank of Upper Canada, built in 1827 – the power-base of the family compact and the establishment target of William Lyon McKenzie's reform rebels. This two-storey, three-bay Georgian block, constructed of limestone, was likely designed by bank director and amateur architect William W. Baldwin, in collaboration with architect-contractor Francis Hall. The Doric-columned portico, added by architect John Howard in 1843, bespeaks the stature of this institution that, between 1822 and 1832, was Upper Canada's only bank. The basement walls incorporate a vaulted arcade from an unconfirmed pre-1820 structure – an archaeological fragment of Toronto's antiquity. The west side of this crypt retains a gun port chiselled through a thick masonry wall. Four classical iron columns support the span above the main banking room floor. Massive steel-studded wooden security doors rest neatly tucked between the pilasters of the entry to the main hall, framing a refined Georgian door with a round-headed fanlight subdivided by delicate mullions. Today, these spaces are occupied by a high-tech media firm. But they retain the memory of the original Bank of Upper Canada – a balance of a sense of refinement, confidence and social status of the political elite with the needs for security and defence in early Toronto.

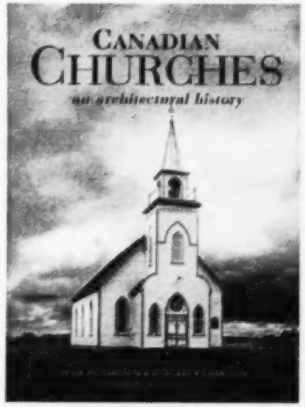
At the other corner of the same block is the 1833 Georgian house of James Scott Howard – Toronto's first postmaster. It amazingly continues to function as a post office, but with an added museological and interpretive overlay. Between them stands the De La Salle Institute, a Victorian block built in 1870 that eventually expanded to absorb the two adjacent properties by extending its third storey and mansard roof over the bank and post office.

Throughout the following century, this unified complex served as a residential Catholic school, the offices of the Toronto Separate School Board, a speculative office building under the ownership of Christie Brown Biscuit Company and finally the headquarters and processing plant of the United Farmers of Ontario Co-operative Company Ltd. In the 1970s, the complex was narrowly saved from demolition and rehabilitated as an office complex.

The archaeological and architectural complexity of the Bank of Upper Canada block imparts a unique quality to its architecture. It is a structure that was once imagined, designed, constructed and then used, misused, sometimes abused, neglected, rediscovered and used again. It has taken on different associative and symbolic meanings at different periods of its existence. With the protection of the Trust's heritage conservation easement, it will continue to evolve its complex architectural character composed of fragmentary beauties.

WHAT'S ON . . .

. . . the shelf



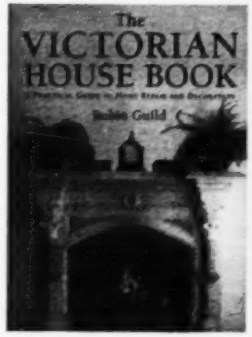
Canadian Churches: An architectural history, by Peter Richardson and Douglas Richardson, with photographs by John de Visser.

Firefly Books. This book is the first definitive guide to more than 250 of the most beautiful and significant churches across the country. Encompassing many styles and many denominations, *Canadian Churches* tells the story of settlers with Old World traditions arriving in a New World landscape, and how these traditions evolved over time as the country moved west.

Canadian Churches provides a detailed view of our spiritual, ethnic and architectural heritage by providing a history for each church, including the construction, subsequent alterations or additions, the early congregation and any architectural details considered to be unique and noteworthy.

Illustrated throughout with specially commissioned photographs, artwork, drawings and illustrations, this book is a must for anyone interested in history, architecture and religion.

The Victorian House Book: A practical guide to home repair and decoration, by Robin Guild.



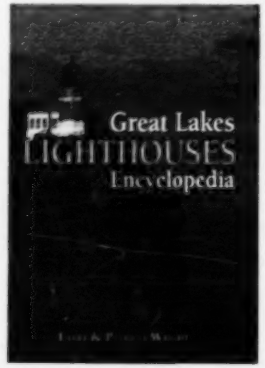
Firefly Books. In this comprehensive workbook, interior designer Robin Guild takes you through every room in the Victorian house, explaining how to recognize original fixtures and fittings, and suggesting ways you can use them to put a personal stamp on your home while staying true to its Victorian origins. He also provides details on how to modernize features to meet the convenience and comfort demands of the 21st-century homeowner. Drawing on his professional experience, the expertise of an advisory panel of architects and historians specializing in Victorian architecture, and the vast array of resources in this book, Robin helps you decide what changes or improvements to make, which should come first, and how to work through them all step by step.

Great Lakes Lighthouses Encyclopedia, by Larry and Patricia Wright.

The Boston Mills Press. The result of more than 15 years of research and interviews, this comprehensive full-color encyclopedia features more than 650 lighthouses located on both the American and the Canadian sides of all five Great Lakes.

As we drive along their shores today, these lakes may appear easy to navigate, but swift currents, hidden reefs and shoals, shifting sandbars, uncharted passages, and fierce, fast-moving storms made early navigation a mariner's nightmare. Tales of tragedy and triumph abound in this remarkable work.

All manner of stone, brick and wooden lighthouses were erected to light the night and safely guide lake-farers in their schooners, steamers, brigs, barques and sloops. Many of these noble structures have since fallen into disrepair or have been torn down in the name of progress, but the surviving lights – hundreds of them – have become monuments to an exciting period in our history and points of pilgrimage for millions of maritime enthusiasts.



Though numerous regional lighthouse books have been written, this outstanding volume is the first to capture lighthouse history throughout the Great Lakes.

In the coming months . . .

The Ontario Heritage Trust regularly hosts or attends events that impact our rich and unique heritage. From provincial plaque unveilings to conferences, we are busy year-round with activities that promote heritage conservation in Ontario.

Here are some of the events and activities occurring over the next few months. Visit our website at www.heritagetrust.on.ca for more details!

October 1-2, 2008 – The Niagara Escarpment Commission's 6th biosphere conference at Monora Park in Orangeville – Leading Edge 2008 gets "back to the roots" of the conference series begun in 1994, with a focus on Niagara Escarpment research and "State of the Escarpment" reporting. The conference is presented by the Niagara Escarpment Commission in association with the Ontario Heritage Trust, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and the Canadian Biosphere Reserves Association.

October 16, 2008 – George Weston provincial plaque unveiling in Toronto. George Weston (1865-1924) – baker, businessman, entrepreneur and politician – created the foundations of an enterprise that his successors would develop into the Weston food empire.

October 27, 2008 at 1:45 p.m. – Provincial plaque unveiling to commemorate the French-Canadian settlement and the construction of the Canadian Pacific Railway in the Mattawa area. Following the decline of the fur trade in this northern community, the forestry industry took hold. The population grew immensely following the construction of the railway through Mattawa, contributing greatly to the birth and growth of many northern towns.

October 28, 2008 at 4 p.m. – Joanne Lapie provincial plaque unveiling in Pembroke. Joanne Lapie (1939-1999) was a dedicated teacher and advocate for the establishment of French-language schools in Ontario. Although she died young, her contributions to the preservation of francophone culture within Ontario were significant.

November 19-21, 2008 – A.D. Latornell Conservation Symposium at the Nottawasaga Inn in Alliston. The theme of the 15th annual A.D. Latornell Conservation Symposium is Local Solutions for Global Challenges, focusing on the urgent need to rethink how we manage local natural resources in order to adapt to a changing global environment. Keynote speaker, Stephen Lewis. The Ontario Heritage Trust is a long-standing partner with Latornell and will once again have an exhibit at the symposium.

Joanne Lapie (ca 1970), Université d'Ottawa, CACQF **Fonds Paroisse Saint-Jean-Baptiste de Pembroke** (C27), P67p-2

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www.heritagetrust.on.ca

Enoch Turner Schoolhouse

Visit one of the oldest schools still standing in Toronto and experience what education was like in the Victorian era. Established in 1848 by Enoch Turner, a wealthy brewer, this was the first free school in the city. Today, this remarkable schoolhouse is a venue for educational programs, meetings, weddings and receptions.

Open year-round for tours and school visits, and a unique venue for special events.
For more information, call 416-863-0010.

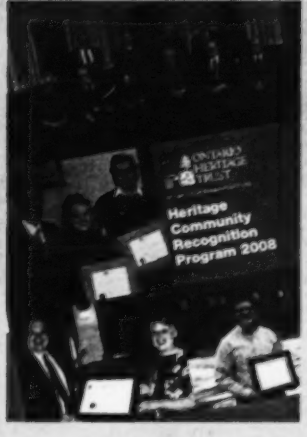
Enoch Turner Schoolhouse
106 Trinity Street, Toronto

Young Heritage Leaders 2008

The *Young Heritage Leaders* program recognizes youth for significant voluntary contributions to built, cultural and natural heritage conservation. For information on how to nominate a Young Heritage Leader in your community, visit: www.heritagetrust.on.ca or e-mail reception@heritagetrust.on.ca. **The deadline for this year's nominations is October 31, 2008.**

Great-West Life, London Life and Canada Life are proud sponsors of Young Heritage Leaders.

NEW Lieutenant Governor's Ontario Heritage Award for Community Leadership



In 2008, the Lieutenant Governor of Ontario and the Ontario Heritage Trust established a new Lieutenant Governor's Ontario Heritage Awards category to recognize communities with a proven track record of exemplary leadership in heritage promotion and conservation. Any municipality or Aboriginal community can submit a nomination.

For more information, visit www.heritagetrust.on.ca or e-mail reception@heritagetrust.on.ca.